

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3289

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CA

SUBJECT: QUEBEC SEPARATISM

1. THE PROVINCE OF JANUARY 28 CARRIES FOLLOWING FRONT-PAGE
LEAD HEADLINE: "US INTERVENES OVER PQ--DELICATELY."
HEADLINE BASED ON CP STORY (DATELINED EVANSTON, ILLINOIS)
REPORTING ON EUR/CAN DIRECTOR JOHN ROUSE'S "DELICATELY-
WORDED DECLARATION OF U.S. CONCERN" AT BUSINESS SEMINAR
ON JANUARY 27. PRESS ITEM STATES THAT A SOURCE SAID ROUSE S
PARTICIPATION IN SEMINAR ON BUSINESS PROSPECTS IN QUEBEC
WAS A DELIBERATE AND SIGNIFICANT STATE DEPARTMENT MOVE
AND THAT THE INTERVENTION IN THE DEBATE ON CANADA'S FUTURE
ENDS " MORE THAN TWO MONTHS OF OFFICIAL U.S. SILENCE ON THE
(QUEBEC) ELECTION."

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORT, ROUSE TOLD THE BUSINESSMEN
THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD NOT AND WILL NOT SEEK TO INFLUENCE
CANADA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SEES A
CANADA THAT IS VIGOROUS, SELF-CONFIDENT, INDEPENDENT AND
ACTIVELY ENGAGED INTERNATIONALLY AS THE BEST NORTHERN NEIGHBOR
WE CAN HAVE. AND OBVIOUSLY WE ARE INTERESTED IN ANY
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DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THESE FACTORS, EVEN
MARGINALLY." ARTICLE GOES ON TO REPORT THAT ROUSE SAID PQ
ELECTION MIGHT BE VIEWED IN LONG-TERM CONTEXT, THAT USG
AND PRIVATE AMERICANS SHOULD TAKE SITUATION CALMLY SINCE
ANY CHANGE WOULD BE GRADUAL AND LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES OF
DEBATE ARE RESPONSIBLE, AND THAT "IT'S EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT FOR U.S. INTERESTS NOT TO OVER-REACT."

3. CP REPORT NOTES THAT QUEBEC INDUSTRY MINISTER TREMBLAY BROUGHT THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE SEMINAR, TELLING BUSINESSMEN NOT TO BE LED ASTRAY BY "ALARMING AND GLOOMY" ONTARIO-INSPIRED STORIES IN U.S. NEWS MEDIA. TREMBLAY REPORTEDLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE PQ HAS "GOOD CONTACTS" IN USG AND THAT HE BELIEVES THEY RECOGNIZE QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE IN LONG-TERM U.S. INTEREST.

4. CLIPPINGS BEING MAILED TO ADDRESSEES.
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